

CLAIMS

*swat*

1. A composition for treating HCV infection in a human, comprising alpha-interferon or a derivative thereof and an IMPDH inhibitor, wherein said IMPDH inhibitor is present in said composition in an amount such that a ratio of  $C_{avg}/C_{min}$  is between 1 to 10;

wherein:

10  $C_{avg}$  is average plasma concentration produced by said IMPDH inhibitor in said human; and

$C_{min}$  is estimated trough concentration produced by said IMPDH inhibitor in said human.

15 2. A method for treating HCV infection in a human comprising the step of administering to said human an optimal composition comprising alpha-interferon or a derivative thereof and an IMPDH inhibitor, wherein said optimal composition contains said IMPDH inhibitor in an amount such that a ratio of  $C_{avg}/C_{min}$  is between 1 to 10;

wherein:

20  $C_{avg}$  is average plasma concentration produced by said IMPDH inhibitor in said human; and

25  $C_{min}$  is estimated trough concentration produced by said IMPDH inhibitor in said human.

3. A method for evaluating the suitability of a composition comprising an IMPDH inhibitor and alpha-interferon for treating HCV infection in a human, said method comprising the steps of:

a. administering to said human said composition comprising said IMPDH inhibitor and said alpha-interferon;

- b. determining average plasma concentration produced by said IMPDH inhibitor in said human ("Cavg");
- c. determining trough concentration produced by said IMPDH inhibitor in said human ("Cmin");
- 5 d. calculating a ratio of Cavg/Cmin;
- e. deeming said composition to be suitable for treating HCV infection if said ratio is between 1 to 10.

10 4. A method of producing an optimal composition for treating HCV infection in a human, wherein said optimal composition comprises alpha-interferon or a derivative thereof and an optimal amount of an IMPDH inhibitor, said method comprising the steps of:

15 a. administering to said human a first composition comprising a first amount of said IMPDH inhibitor and said alpha-interferon;

b. determining average plasma concentration produced by said first amount of said IMPDH inhibitor in said human ("Cavg");

20 c. determining trough concentration produced by said first amount of said IMPDH inhibitor in said human ("Cmin");

d. calculating a ratio of said Cavg to said Cmin;

25 e. modifying said first amount of said IMPDH inhibitor in said first composition to produce said optimal composition wherein said ratio is between 1 to 10.

30 5. The method according to any of claims 1-4, wherein said ratio is between 1-8.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said ratio is between 3-8.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said ratio is between 5-8.

*Para 3* 8. The method according to any of claims 1-7, wherein said IMPDH inhibitor is selected from mycophenolic acid, ribavirin, VX-497, VX-148 or VX-944.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said  
10 IMPDH inhibitor is selected from ribavirin, mycophenolic acid or VX-497.

*B*  
10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said IMPDH inhibitor is ribavirin.

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*Para 4* 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said IMPDH inhibitor is VX-497.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein said  
20 IMPDH inhibitor is mycophenolic acid.